

ARTICLE APPEARED
ON PAGE **A3**NEW YORK TIMES
21 March 1987

Senator Is Quoted as Saying U.S. Recruited Israeli Officer as a Spy

By **STEPHEN ENGELBERG**

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, March 20 — The former chairman of the Senate intelligence committee, Senator Dave Durenberger, told two Jewish political gatherings last Sunday that American intelligence agents had used an Israeli military officer as a spy in the early 1980's, according to a newspaper report quoting three people who were at the meetings.

Mr. Durenberger, Republican of Minnesota, issued a statement today that said his remarks were intended to add perspective to the case of Jonathan Jay Pollard, an American intelligence official recently sentenced to life in prison for spying for Israel. Mr. Durenberger did not deny having made the remarks attributed to him in the article, which appeared in today's issue of The Jerusalem Post.

Attempts to contact Mr. Durenberger for additional comment were unsuccessful.

Several present and former Reagan Administration officials said they were not aware of any United States recruitment of an Israeli officer. But the Israeli newspaper article said three people who attended two gatherings in Palm Beach, Fla., quoted Mr. Durenberger as saying that William J. Casey, then Director of Central Intelligence, "changed the rules" in the early 1980's by authorizing the recruitment of a spy in Israel.

According to the witnesses cited in The Post, Mr. Durenberger said the C.I.A. recruited a spy in the Israeli military who passed on sensitive information during the Israeli invasion of Lebanon in 1982. They also said he told them the agency urged the Federal Bureau of Investigation not to pursue Mr. Pollard. And they quoted him as saying that Mr. Casey had broken an agreement with Israel that the two nations would not recruit agents in each

other's Governments.

Neither the F.B.I. or the C.I.A. would comment on the report.

Mr. Durenberger was a member of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence for eight years and was its chairman from 1985 to 1986. When the Democrats regained control of the Senate, he left the committee.

One of those who attended the meeting, a person with close contacts with the Israeli Government, said he doubted Mr. Durenberger's account. He said he had heard a range of Israeli explanations and rationalizations for spying on the United States, and "I never heard a whisper of this."

Congressional officials familiar with intelligence activities said today they were baffled by Mr. Durenberger's comments, and said they had heard of no recruitment of spies in Israel.

Administration officials have previously acknowledged that the United States tries to gather intelligence about Israel. But they said the methods used were technical, involving surveillance satellites or intercepted communications. The recruitment of a spy in the Israeli Government would be a significant step further.

The espionage case against Mr. Pollard has been a major irritant in Israeli-American relations.

Mr. Durenberger's comments were made at two events in Florida held by

the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, the first of which was attended by about 150 people at the home of Irwin Levy. A later event involved about 50 people in South Palm Beach.

According to one person who attended and took notes, Senator Durenberger said that: "We changed the rules in the early 1980's. We recruited an Israeli to spy on Israel, and he got caught."

"What I'm really saying to you is that this is not a one-way street," Mr. Durenberger was quoted by this person as saying. "I can't justify Pollard, but I can understand it."

The C.I.A. is required by law to inform Congress of covert activities, which can only be authorized by Presidential order.